

Liaison psychiatry

Liaison psychiatrists work at the interface between physical and psychological health, providing psychiatric care to medical patients.

Liaison psychiatry is a young and emerging sub-specialty of general psychiatry.

Life as a liaison psychiatrist

Your role will be to diagnose and manage patients with a wide range of mental health problems.

You'll work with physically ill people and the healthcare professionals who care for them. This means you'll manage patients with multiple, long-term chronic health conditions and liaise with clinical staff in other specialties.

Most of your patients will be of working age (18 to 65 years old) and attending general hospital, emergency departments and outpatients. Although, increasingly, patients are seen in the community and through [primary care \[1\]](#) services.

On hospital wards, you'll provide an assessment and treatment of a patient or advise other healthcare staff how to manage a patient. Often a patient will be confused or experiencing dementia and you'll need perseverance and excellent communication skills.

In emergency departments, you'll work closely with emergency medical staff and other clinicians to assess and treat people for a wide range of conditions including alcohol- and drug-related issues, acute psychosis and self-harm. Patients may be taking numerous medicines and you'll need to collaborate with medical colleagues to determine treatment.

A significant part of your role will be to provide informal and formal teaching and training to hospital colleagues.

Common mental health disorders you'll treat include:

- acute psychosis
- alcohol and drug addictions
- anxiety
- delirium
- dementia
- depression

- eating disorders
- neuropsychiatric disorders
- perinatal mental health problems
- self-harm

How much can I earn?

You'll first earn a salary when you start your [foundation training](#) ^[2] after medical school. Find out details of current salary ranges for foundation and specialty training, [SAS doctors](#) ^[3] and consultants on the ['Pay for doctors'](#) ^[4] page.

How about the benefits?

- make a difference
- flexible and part-time working
- high income early in your career
- work anywhere in the world
- excellent pension scheme
- good holiday entitlement
- NHS discounts in shops and restaurants

Must-have skills

- excellent communication skills to manage a wide range of relationships with colleagues, and patients and their families
- emotional resilience, a calm temperament and the ability to work well under pressure
- teamwork and the capacity to lead multidisciplinary teams
- problem-solving and diagnostic skills
- outstanding organisational ability and effective decision-making skills
- first-class time and resource management for the benefit of patients

In addition, you'll need to be able to demonstrate:

- empathy and compassion and the ability to treat others with understanding and respect
- excellent listening skills

Entry requirements

Your first step is medical school. Typically, you'll need excellent GCSEs and three A or A* passes at A level including chemistry for a five-year undergraduate degree in medicine. Many medical schools also ask for biology and others may require maths or physics.

If you already have a degree, you could study for a four-year postgraduate degree in medicine.

You'll need to pass an interview and admissions test. You'll be asked to show how you demonstrate the NHS values such as compassion and respect.

Some medical schools look to recruit a mix of students from different backgrounds and geographical areas, so your educational and economic background and family circumstances

could be considered as part of your application.

“I treat patients with delirium, dementia and severe depression. They often have multiple and severe physical and mental health problems”.

Read Jude’s story ^[5].

How to become a liaison psychiatrist

After medical school, you’ll join the paid two-year foundation programme ^[6] where you’ll work in six placements in different settings.

After your foundation programme, you can apply for paid specialty training ^[7] to become a liaison psychiatrist, which will take a minimum of six years.

You may be able to train part time, for example for health reasons or if you have family or caring responsibilities.

Where a career as a liaison psychiatrist can take you

You could:

- specialise or conduct research in areas such as cures for dementia
- teach medical students or postgraduate students in training
- get involved in research at universities, the NHS or private sector

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○ **Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist**

Nuneaton, CV10 7DJ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[8]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist, Liaison - Epsom**

Dorking Road, Epsom, KT18 7EG

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist, Liaison - Epsom job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[9]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist Older People Liaison**

Hull, HU3 2RW

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist Older People Liaison job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[10]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist in Liaison Psychiatry**

Shrewsbury, SY3 8XQ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Liaison Psychiatry job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[11]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist - Acute Hospital Liaison, Swindon**

Swindon, SN3 6BW

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist - Acute Hospital Liaison, Swindon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[12]

- **LIAISON & ENHANCED TREATMENT PATHWAY CAMHS CONSULTANT PSYCHIATRIST**

Kent, TN12 0ER

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

NELFT North East London Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for LIAISON & ENHANCED TREATMENT PATHWAY CAMHS CONSULTANT PSYCHIATRIST job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[13]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist, Liaison - East Surrey (attracts £25K RRP)**

Redhill Annex, Canada Avenue, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 5RH

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist, Liaison - East Surrey \(attracts £25K RRP\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[14]

- **Discharge Liaison Coordinator**

Birmingham, B15 2TG

Salary:

£38682.00 to £46580.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Discharge Liaison Coordinator job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[15]

- **Team Lead - MHL D Liaison**

Newport, PO30 5TG

Salary:

£47810.00 to £54710.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Team Lead - MHL D Liaison job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[16]

- **Liaison & Diversion Support Worker**

Kendal, LA9 4RJ

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Liaison & Diversion Support Worker job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[17]

- **Consultant in Liaison Psychiatry**

Salisbury, SP2 8BJ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Liaison Psychiatry job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[18]

- **Consultant in Liaison Psychiatry**

Luton, LU4 0DZ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East London NHS Foundation Trust

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- **Consultant in Psychiatry Liaison Team**

Wakefield, WF1 3SP

Salary:

£114894.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Psychiatry Liaison Team job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[20]

- **Principal Psychologist - Psychiatric Liaison Service**

Luton, LU4 0DZ

Salary:

£62215.00 to £72293.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East London NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Principal Psychologist - Psychiatric Liaison Service job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[21]

- **GP Liaison and Stakeholder Officer**

Brentford, TW8 9DR

Salary:

£38000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Healthshare Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for GP Liaison and Stakeholder Officer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[22]

- **GP Liaison and Stakeholder Officer**

Norwich, NR4 7YB

Salary:

£43000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Healthshare Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for GP Liaison and Stakeholder Officer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[23]

- **Consultant Mental Health Liaison - Bolton**

Farnworth, Bolton, BL4 0JR

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Greater Manchester Mental Health NHSFT

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Mental Health Liaison - Bolton job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[24]

- **Consultant in General Adult Psychiatry - Liaison**

Southampton, SO16 5YA

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in General Adult Psychiatry - Liaison job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[25]

- **Liaison Diversion and RECONNECT Youth Coordinator**

Maidstone, ME16 9NW

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Kent & Medway NHS & Social Care Partnership Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Liaison Diversion and RECONNECT Youth Coordinator job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[26]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist**

Pentre, CF417BT

Salary:

£110240.00 to £160951.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

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[27]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist**

Bury St Edmunds, IP30 9LR

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Elysium Healthcare

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[28]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist**

Baldock, SG7 6ND

Salary:

£160000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Nouvita Limited

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[29]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist**

Stafford, ST16 3SR

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

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- **Consultant Psychiatrist**

Leyland, PR268LW

Salary:

£170000.00 to £180000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Practice Plus Group

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[31]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist**

York, YO23 3FT

Salary:

£189900.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Practice Plus Group

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[32]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist**

Leyland, PR268NE

Salary:

£170000.00 to £180000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Practice Plus Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[33]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist**

Oakham , LE15 7RD

Salary:

£180000.00 to £180000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Practice Plus Group

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• Further information

These organisations have further information about being a liaison psychiatrist, particularly as your career progresses. Take a look.

[British Medical Association](#) [35]

[General Medical Council](#) [36]

[Royal College of Psychiatrists](#) [37]

And hear from people working in liaison psychiatry:

[Short video about liaison psychiatry \(CNWL NHS Foundation Trust\)](#) [38]

Other roles that may interest you

- [General practitioner](#) [39]
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